

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

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R 121718Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5697

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS UNN

UNCLAS MADRID 3734

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: AREILZA CALLS FOR NATIONAL PACT FOR REFORM

1. IN PARTIAL REPLY TO THE OPPOSITION'S CHARGE THAT THE GOVT
DESIRES ONLY A TRUCE AND NOT COOPERATION, FOREIGN MINISTER
AREILZA, AT A LUNCHEON AT THE PRESTIGIOUS "CLUB SIGLO XXI,"
CALLED ON THE MODERATE OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISH A "NATIONAL
PACT" FOR REFORM: "EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS REFORM YOU
HAVE TO ACCEPT IT. IF THE KING OPENS PLAY, THE RULES MUST BE
ACCEPTED BECAUSE THE TIMES REQUIRE IT OF US AND BECAUSE IT
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IS THE PATH OF THE FUTURE."

2. FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF, AREILZA REPLIED TO A VARIETY OF QUESTION. AMONG OTHER ITEMS HE CHARACTERIZED THE WORK THUS FAR OF THE GOVT AS "ENORMOUS" DESPITE THE COMPLAINTS OF THE RIGHT AND LEFT. "THIS WORK HAS AS ITS GOAL TO OPEN THE COUNTRY TO REFORM WITHOUT TRAUMA, A REFORM OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IN ALL ITS ASPECTS WITHOUT FORGETTING LABOR UNION REFORM, WHICH IS OF UNAVOIDABLE IMPORTANCE FOR INTEGRATION INTO THE ILO." AND HE SAID THAT ON HIS TOUR OF THE NINE EC CAPITALS HE ENCOUNTERED "A PROFOUND DESIRE THAT SPAIN ENTER THE EC, BECAUSE EUROPE NEEDS SPAIN AS A RICH MARKET AND A FACTOR OF EQUILIBRIUM."

3. AREILZA'S CALL FOR A NATIONAL PACT RECEIVED FRONT PAGE TREATMENT THROUGHOUT THE SPANISH PRESS. THE EDITOR OF "ARRIBA" (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) TERMED THE CALL "A KEY FOR REFORM," STATING THAT ANY POLITICAL REFORM IS A LABORIOUS TASK BUT WHEN ONE IS ATTEMPTING TO REFORM IS A LABORIOUS TASK BUT WHEN ONE IS ATTEMPTING TO REFORM TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IT IS RISKY AS WELL. SPANIARDS MUST REALIZE THAT "NO DEMOCRACY PLEASES EVERYBODY."

4. A COMMENTARY IN "ABC" (MONARCHIST) SAID THAT IN AN AGE WHERE POLITICIANS SEEK OBSCURITY IN WHAT THEY SAY, AREILZA'S COMMENTS STOOD OUT FOR THEIR "ABSOLUTE CLARITY OF EXPRESSION." AREILZA WAS "ACQUIRING THE LINEAMENTS OF A TRUE STATEMAN."

5. "INFORMACIONES" (EVENING INDEPENDENT) SAID THE CALL WAS A "HAND HELD OUT TO THE MODERATE OPPOSITION" AND NOTED AS WELL THAT AREILZA'S "POLITICAL STATURE WAS GROWING."

6. "YA" (CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT) SAID THAT AREILZA DEFENDED THE NATIONAL PACT AS "AN AGREEMENT OF HONOR BETWEEN THE GOVT AND THE OPPOSITION, WHICH GUARANTEES THE OPPOSITION ITS ACCESS TO POWER THE DAY IT OBTAINS THE NECESSARY MAJORITY" BUT ADDED THAT THUS FAR THE GOVT HAS PREFERRED TO CONFRONT THE OPPOSITION WITH ITS OWN DRAFT LAWS RATHER THAN INVITE IT TO A DIALOGUE. ALSO IN "YA" THE LEADING POLITICAL COMMENTATOR LUIS APOSTUA TERMED AREILZA'S TALK AS "ONE MORE SMALL STEP IN HIS POLITICAL CLIMB TO A HIGHER DESTINY.... IT WAS A DIALECTICAL EXHIBITION WHICH TRANQUILIZED THE RIGHT, CONTENTED THE REFORMISTS AND SHOWED ITSELF AS SENSIBLE AND COOPERATIVE TO THE MILITARY."

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE
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